Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 10693 271037Z

13
ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 H-03 ACDA-19 IO-13 AEC-11 OIC-04

RSR-01 /156 W
---------- 070597
R 271026Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6531
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T BONN 10693

SHAPE FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: X-GDS-1
TAGS: PARM, GW, US
SUBJECT: MBFR: STATIONED/INDIGENOUS REDUCTION ISSUE

REF: BONN 10579

1. BRITISH EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON EMBOFF JULY 27 TO DISCUSS MBFR STATIONED/ INDIGENOUS REDUCTION ISSUE. BRITISH REP SAID HE WISHED TO HAVE OUR JUDGEMENT ON REPORT HIS EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED FROM CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL CONCERNING POSITION OF DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER ON THIS ISSUE. BRITISH REP SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL, LEBER HAD EXPRESSED READINESS TO AGREE THAT INITIAL MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE LIMITED TO STATIONED FORCES AND CONSTRAINTS BUT ALSO SHOULD RESULT IN INDICATION OF PERCENTAGE OF INDIGENOUS FORCES THAT MIGHT BE REDUCED IN SUBSEQUENT MBFR-II NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO THIS
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PAGE 02 BONN 10693 271037Z

LINE, LEBER WOULD THEN ACCEPT IMPLEMENTATION OF

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

STATIONED FORCE REDUCTIONS BEFORE DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS
ON INDIGENOUS FORCE CUTS WOULD BEGIN.

STATIONED FORCE CUTS BEFORE BEGINNING OF DETAILED
NEGOTIATIONS ON INDIGENOUS FORCE REDUCTIONS. BUT EMBOFF
TOLD BRITISH OFFICIAL THAT CURRENT PRESSURES IN
CONGRESS FOR UNILATERAL US REDUCTIONS MADE IT
INADVISABLE TO FIX PERCENTAGE OF POSSIBLE LATER
INDIGENOUS FORCE REDUCTIONS IN INITIAL MBFR NEGOTIATION
PHASE.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN ANALYSIS SET FORTH IN REFTEL,
PARTICULARLY LEBER'S "EXAMPLE" CITED IN REFTEL PARA 4,
THE BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORT STRIKES US AS BEING
PLAUSIBLE. WHILE THE TIMING OF IMPLEMENTATION AND
NEGOTIATION OF STATIONED AND INDIGENOUS FORCE REDUCTIONS
ARE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT IN THE "EXAMPLE" LEBER CITED
IN WASHINGTON AND THE CHANCELLERY REPORT TO BRITISH OF
LEBER'S VIEWS, ONE CAN READ THE FIXING OF PERCENTAGES
IN MBFR-I NEGOTIATIONS AS A TRADE-OFF FOR EARLIER
IMPLEMENTATION OF STATIONED FORCE REDUCTIONS. IN ANY
CASE, WE BELIEVE BOTH FORMULATIONS CAN BE READ AS
ALTERNATIVE MEANS TO LEBER'S SAME GOAL--PRIORITY FOR
STATIONED FORCE NEGOTIATIONS BUT ASSURANCES OF
SUBSEQUENT INDIGENOUS FORCE REDUCTIONS.
HILLENBRAND

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